

WOOD VOTED \$1,500,000 CONTRACT
TO FIRM OF JOHNSON, HIS ACCUSERBERLIN EXPECTS AUSTRIA
TO CHANGE DEFIANT TONE
AND MEET THE U. S. DEMAND

High German Official Says First Note Was Necessary for Maintenance of Dignity, and That Next One Will Be More Compliant.

BERLIN (via Amsterdam), Dec. 17.—Berlin does not expect any diplomatic break between Austria and the United States as a result of Austria's failure to comply promptly with American demands in her reply to the Ancona note.

Austria is willing to make important concessions to prevent such a break, according to information received here. Another exchange of notes probably will clear the whole situation.

The position taken by the Austrian Foreign Office in its reply not only is heartily approved here, but is exactly the attitude Austria was expected to take. It was said by officials to-day that to have complied meekly with the American demands at once would have cost Austria much in prestige and would have brought down popular denunciation upon the Austrian Government.

"Austria having maintained her position in a dignified manner in her reply, can now gracefully yield to America in a subsequent note," said one German official. "To have bowed down to Washington in the reply it has just delivered would have raised a storm of protest in Austria. There is every reason for believing that the Austro-American controversy will be solved just as the trouble over the Lusitania was settled." The Vienna press, apparently at the suggestion of the Government, is refraining from sounding defiance in editorials on the Ancona affair.

WILSON AND LANSING
TAKE UP THE AUSTRIAN
NOTE, DELIVERED TO-DAY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Austria's reply to the Ancona note was received at the State Department during the night. It was decided to-day and placed before President Wilson and Secretary Lansing.

A dispatch from Ambassador Penfield, evidently delayed in transmission, was received just ahead of the note. It said the reply had been delivered to him by the Vienna Foreign Office Wednesday at noon and that he had immediately forwarded it to Washington.

The translators finished decoding the note while the Cabinet was in session, and a State Department messenger took it to the White House. It at once was sent in to Secretary Lansing.

Secretary Lansing said after the Cabinet meeting that he did not know when the official text of the note would be given out for publication and that it certainly would not be made public until he had an opportunity to study it carefully and at length.

Diplomatic relations, although in danger of being broken off, are not likely to be discontinued before there has been another exchange of notes with Vienna and so the crisis may be said not to be in its final stage. Another note setting out why the United States cannot accept Austria's reply will go forward before the situation takes on a more settled aspect. There are hints of informal negotiations which might smooth out the troubled situation. The frequent calls of Baron Zwoedinek, the Austrian charge at the State Department, give color to discussion along that line, and those who expect that at the end the differences will be adjusted, count on the influence of Berlin to avoid a break.

RELIEF SHIP MINED
OR TORPEDOED ON
WAY TO BELGIUM

Levenpool, Which Sailed From New York, Beached to Prevent Her From Sinking.

ROTTERDAM, Dec. 17.—The Belgian relief ship Levenpool, from New York, has been mined or torpedoed. She was in danger of sinking and was beached on Hacking Flats on the East British Coast.

The British steamer Nyroca, arriving here to-day, reported that she passed the Levenpool near Kentishknock.

Her crew, officers of the Nyroca said, were taken off by the steamer Pandion and a torpedo boat.

The Levenpool sailed from New York on Nov. 24 with 6,500 tons of food and clothing for Belgium, destined for Rotterdam. No members of the Relief Commission were on board. She carried only her regular crew.

Because she was flying the Commission's flag, officials expressed doubt to-day that she was torpedoed and felt that if she met with a mishap it was due to striking a mine.

The Levenpool was fully equipped with side banners, deck banners and signal boards, indicating to belligerent vessels that she was a relief ship, officers of the Commission said when the United Press bulletin was read to them. In addition she carried a full lighting system, illuminating these banners at night and making it practically out of the question that her identity might be mistaken.

ZEPPELIN BLOWN UP
ON THE WAY TO YPRES

Entire Crew Is Reported to Have Been Lost With Great Air Raider.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 17.—Destruction of a German Zeppelin and the death of the entire crew was reported by travellers arriving here to-day from Brussels.

The Zeppelin was passing over the outskirts of Namur headed for Ypres with a heavy cargo of bombs, the travellers said. What caused the accident is unknown.

WOMAN "POISON"
NOTE WRITER HELD
IN \$8,000 BAIL

Miss Samuels of Goshen Confessed Penning Scurrilous Letters to Betrothed Girls.

IN COURT IN MOURNING.

Hearing Monday, but U. S. Attorney Hints She May Be Sent to Bellevue.

Miss Therest Samuels, a brunette of attractive appearance, twenty-five years old, was arraigned before United States Commissioner Houghton this afternoon and held in \$8,000 bail for a hearing next Monday on a charge of sending improper letters through the mails.

According to Post Office Inspectors Fitch and Duryea, Miss Samuels acknowledged to them yesterday in her home at Goshen, N. Y., that she was the author of twenty letters sent to the Post Office officials during the last year and a half, after they had been received by young women whose marriages or engagements had been announced in the newspapers.

Miss Samuels told the inspectors she planned with a girl friend, four years ago, to send letters to persons just married or engaged "which would tease them." The plan was not carried out at the time, but two years ago she had an irresistible impulse to carry it out, and did so. She selected the names from the society columns of a New York newspaper.

A letter would be addressed to the object of her spite, warning the woman that the man she was about to marry, or had just married, was the lawful husband of the writer and the father of twins. In twenty letters the form varied little. Included in the letters were scurrilous, of an intensely characteristic, according to psychologists, of a cultured mind which had been attacked by disease.

Miss Samuels was not systematic in sending the letters. The impulse to harrow the feelings of women who were unknown to her except as names came at irregular intervals.

The recent death of her mother at Mount Sinai Hospital in this city is believed to have increased her morbidness.

Assistant United States District Attorney McDonald told Commissioner Houghton he would move to have Miss Samuels sent to Bellevue for observation if anybody could show him anything in her conduct or bearing which indicated she was unbalanced.

Miss Samuels, who was dressed in heavy mourning for her mother, raised her veil only at the instance of the Commissioner.

Bail was furnished by her brother, Sigmund Samuels of Goshen, Isaac Levy of O'Gorman, Battle & Vandermeer appeared for her.

"They will not show those letters to my brother, will they?" was the young woman's only remark to a reporter after the hearing. Her voice was calm and soft.

The formal complainant against Mrs. Samuels is the bride of Assistant District Attorney Claude A. Thompson, who received one of the twenty letters so far reported; in the interest of public duty she consented that her name should be used.

WILSON WEDDING
GUESTS GATHER
FOR CEREMONY

Eve of the Marriage Finds All Busy at the White House and the Galt Home.

WEDDING CAKE ARRIVES.

Honeymoon of President Not Expected to Be Marred by War Complications.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—All arrangements are complete for the wedding of President Wilson and Mrs. Norman Galt to-morrow night, and most of the guests have arrived in Washington. Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, President Wilson's daughter, reached here to-day from Williams-town, Mass., and Mrs. Anne Howe of Philadelphia, the President's sister, and Mrs. Anne Cochran, his niece, are expected at the White House before night. Practically all of Mrs. Galt's relatives who will witness the ceremony are here.

Report to-day had fixed pretty definitely on 9.30 P. M. as the hour of the wedding, which will be held at the home of the bride-to-be.

The marriage license was sent to-day to the Rev. Herbert Scott Smith, rector of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, who will perform the ceremony. The wedding ring, a narrow circle of gold, initialed "W. W. to E. B. G.", was nestled in the President's waistcoat pocket.

The wedding cake, shipped from St. Paul, Minn., is here. It is heart-shaped, leed with orchids, orange blossoms and lilies-of-the-valley. There are also little Cupids ringing wedding bells with miniature red streamers. The cake is six inches thick and twenty inches in diameter. It was baked by Mrs. Marion Cole Fisher, assisted by her husband and Miss Pansy Bowen of St. Paul. Congresswoman Van Dyke was assured of its acceptance by the President.

C. M. Reed, Superintendent of Railway Mails at St. Paul, sent word ahead to all mail clerks to "handle it with care" and to see that its passage was expedited.

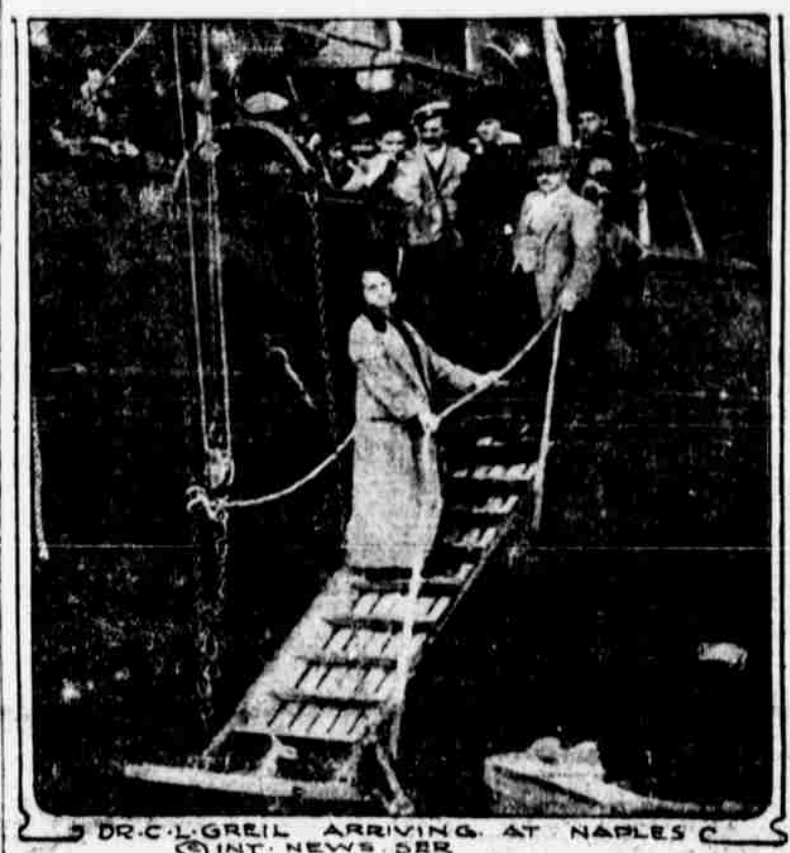
White House attendants were busy packing travelling bags and at Mrs. Galt's home florists began decorating. There was no rehearsal to-day of the ceremony. Messengers arrived at the Galt house during the day with numerous presents.

The honeymoon plans of President Wilson are not to be upset by international events. The honeymoon is not likely to be postponed or shortened because of the situation with Austria, it was learned to-day. It will be spent not far away and the President will be in close touch with the White House. Secretary of State Lansing will be able to visit the President if decisive action regarding Austria becomes necessary. That this will not become necessary within a fortnight, insuring the President at least that much surcease from official cares, was believed.

The list of wedding guests numbers about thirty, confined mostly to the immediate family of the President and Mrs. Galt. Of the President's relatives, only his mother, Mrs. Anna Mary Wilson, is expected to be present.

(Continued on Second Page.)

\$12 Men's O'coats & Suits, \$5.95
THE "HUB" Clothing Corner, Broadway, cor. Barclay St., opp. Woolworth Building, will sell to-day and Saturday 1,000 Men's Suits and Overcoats, fine black, blue, gray, pencil stripes and dark mixed woads; all sizes, 34 to 44. Worth \$12 in any other store. Our special price to-day and Saturday, \$5.95. Open Saturday night till 10. The Hub Clothing, Broadway, cor. Barclay St., 4th fl., 1000 N. Y. City, Telephone Bookman 4000.—Advt.

Woman Doctor Landing at Naples
After Rescue From Liner AnconaTORNADO KILLS
14 IN MISSISSIPPI;
TOWN WIPED OUT

Many Injured and Heavy Damage at Different Places in Path of Storm.

MERIDIAN, Miss., Dec. 17.—Twelve persons are reported killed, more than a hundred hurt and the whole town of Cullum destroyed by a tornado early to-day.

Two persons were killed and many hurt here. Property damage at Meridian will not be heavy. At Giles, Miss., where a house was blown down, two women were killed.

Two score persons are said to be injured in Lauderdale and in Kemper County.

16 BURNED TO DEATH
IN TRIPLE TRAIN WRECK

Fifty Other Persons Injured and Several Missing When Cars Are Burned on Railway in England.

NEWCASTLE, England, Dec. 17.—Sixteen persons are known to have been killed, more than fifty injured and several are missing in a triple collision to-day between a freight train, a pilot engine and a passenger train in a heavy fog near Jarrow.

Four coaches overturned, caught fire and were destroyed. Sixteen corpses, so badly charred as to make identification almost impossible, have been recovered from the wreckage early this afternoon. A trainload of nurses and physicians was despatched from Newcastle. The train was compelled to grope its way down the coast in one of the densest fogs that has blanketed the Tyne region in months.

STEAMSHIPS DUE TO-DAY.

Minneapolis, London, 8 A. M.
Advance, Cristobal, 9 A. M.
Guantanamo, Puerto Mexico, 10 A. M.
Zulia, San Juan, 11 A. M.
Europa, Naples, 11 A. M.

WAR HAS COST EUROPE
\$38,800,000,000 SO FAR

Ribot So Informs French Deputies as They Vote a New Credit.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—The Chamber, by a vote of 364 to 1, voted the credits asked on account of the first semester of 1916.

"At the beginning of hostilities," said M. Ribot, "financial considerations took a secondary place. We did not think the war would last seventeen months, and now no one can foretell when it will end."

In the course of the discussion Deputy Jules Roche said the war already had cost France 26,000,000,000 francs (\$5,200,000,000) and her enemies 17,000,000,000 francs (\$3,400,000,000). Europe as a whole, he said, had expended 124,000,000,000 francs, or \$24,800,000,000.

RAILROAD SLAUGHTER
LIKE TRENCH WARFARE

Total of Accidents for November 5,046, With 22 Dead; Increase Over Last Year.

The Public Service Commission has prepared a summary of the reports of accidents on railroads and street railroads for the month of November, 1915. It shows a total of 5,046 accidents, against 4,726 in November, 1914. The number of serious accidents, however, decreased from 181 in November, 1914, to 131. The fatalities were twenty-two in November of this year, against eighteen in November last year.

The total number of passengers injured was 2,087, against 1,654 in November last year; employees, 896, against 757; all other persons, 374, against 442. A total of persons injured of 3,357, against 3,153 in the same month last year.

Of the total of 5,046 accidents, 3,330 were on surface lines, 1,211 on railway and elevated lines, 382 on railroad trunk lines, eighteen on railroad terminal lines and five on omnibus lines.

BIG ITALIAN LINER
SUNK BY SUBMARINE

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Italian liner Porto Said has been sunk by a submarine.

The Porto Said was owned by the Italian Maritime Society of Genoa, at which port she was registered. She was built in 1888 and displaced 3,391 tons.

SUBWAY CONTRACT GIVEN
BY WOOD'S VOTE TO FIRM OF
MAN WHO CHARGES BRIBERY

"Salmon Told Johnson to Get Contracts," Testifies Lawyer for Company Which Dismissed Salesman After Alleged Bribe Demand.

CHARGES AGAINST WOOD
PRESENTED TO GRAND JURY.

Soon after the presentation to the Grand Jury to-day of charges accusing Public Service Commissioner Robert C. Wood with having solicited a bribe for the Centre Street loop signal contract revelations came before the Thompson Legislative Committee that involved Wood still further.

It was brought out that Sidney G. Johnson, from whom the five thousand dollar bribe is alleged to have been solicited, had been instrumental in getting the Fourth Avenue tunnel signal contract from the Public Service Commission for the General Railway Signal Company, which hired him after he was dismissed by the Union Switch and Signal Company.

S. O. Levinson of Chicago, counsel for the Union Company, swore on the stand that President William W. Salmon of the General Railway Signal Company told him he had hired Johnson to get contracts. Wood cast the decisive vote in the Fourth Avenue Tunnel contract. The contract was for \$1,414,494.

Mr. Levinson was the first witness before the committee this afternoon. He has been for three years attorney for the Union Switch and Signal Company of Swissvale, Pa.

Q. Were you present at the meeting of the Union Switch Company on July 15, 1914? A. Yes.

Mr. Levinson named those present, including Col. Prout, President W. D. Uptegraff and Sidney G. Johnson.

"The question came up," he said, "as to the payment proposed by Col. Prout to be made by Mr. Johnson to Commissioner Wood for securing for us the Centre Street loop contract."

Q. Securing the contract or using his influence? A. Well, he was to get us the contract.

"The question arose," Mr. Levinson continued, "on Mr. Uptegraff's refusal to sign a check for \$5,000 for Mr. Wood. At the request of Col. Prout and Mr. Johnson the matter was brought up before the board. The time was past. They had promised to pay the money and they wanted to make their word good, and they did not want to lose the contract."

Q. (By Senator Thompson) Are you sure the meeting was called at the request of Mr. Uptegraff? A. Well, Col. Prout and Mr. Johnson were insisting on the payment and Mr. Uptegraff swore he would not sign any such check as that. The heinousness of paying a bribe did not seem to impress them. The thing they urged was that they must be allowed to make good their word, inasmuch as they had promised to pay the \$5,000. I don't mind telling you that we directors talked it over the day before and agreed that if they insisted on going through with the bribe we'd put them out. The issue was clean-cut. We had known about it for some three weeks. The proposal was to bribe a public official, and we did not descend much to details. Col. Prout and Johnson pleaded for delay, but we had a meeting that lasted practically all day.

Q. Do you remember any plea that Johnson made? A. He kept insisting that he had promised the money and he wanted to pay it. Col. Prout

Four bids were offered for the signal system in the Fourth Avenue subway. They were as follows: Federal Signal Co., \$1,397,000; Union Switch and Signal Co., \$1,535,000; General Railway Signal Co., \$1,812,000; Hall Switch and Signal Co., \$2,255,000.

The contract was first given to the Federal Company. Later the bids were re-opened at the request of Commissioner Wood, who said in testimony given subsequently, that he did so at the suggestion of T. S. Williams, President of the B. R. T. Mr. Williams told him that the General Company's proposed device was the "signal of the future."

In the revised bid the General Company brought its figures down to \$1,414,494. This was still \$117,494 above the Federal company's bid. It was for this bid that Commissioner Wood cast the deciding vote.

Court Withdraws Injunction After Seeing Advertising.

Supreme Court Justice Flaizak to-day gave License Commissioner Bell leave to deal with the movie film "Virtue," which was to have opened at Daly's Theatre several weeks ago. Commissioner Bell was temporarily enjoined from interfering with the film by Justice Whittaker.

Before Justice Flaizak reached his decision Assistant Corporation Counsel Nicholson read to him some of the advertising matter, in which these phrases appeared: "See the Abduction Scene," "Rich Man's Heaven," "The Seelye Damsel Outdone," "The Fire Scene in the Hoarding School."